

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1. (*Previously Presented*) A chassis for an in-line skate, said chassis comprising:

- at least one substantially horizontal foot-bearing portion;
- one longitudinally extending lateral flange extending downwardly from said foot-bearing portion, and one longitudinally extending medial flange extending downwardly from said foot-bearing portion;
- each of said lateral flange and said medial flange having a top portion and a bottom portion, wherein:
  - both said top portions of said lateral flange and said medial flange being transversely spaced apart and both said bottom portions of said lateral flange and said medial flange being adapted to have attached therebetween at least one wheel;
  - each of said lateral flange and said medial flange further having a stiffening rib, said stiffening rib having been made by pressing, extending longitudinally other than in a straight line.

Claim 2. (*Previously Presented*) A chassis for an in-line skate, said chassis comprising:

- at least one substantially horizontal foot-bearing portion;
- one longitudinally extending lateral flange extending downwardly from said foot-bearing portion, and one longitudinally extending medial flange extending downwardly from said foot-bearing portion;

each of said lateral flange and said medial flange having a top portion and a bottom portion, wherein:

both said top portions of said lateral flange and said medial flange being transversely spaced apart and both said bottom portions of said lateral flange and said medial flange being adapted to have attached therebetween at least one wheel;

each of said lateral flange and said medial flange having a stiffening rib, said stiffening rib having been made by pressing, extending longitudinally other than in a straight line;

each of said stiffening rib of said lateral flange and said stiffening rib of said medial flange comprises opposite ends, each of said stiffening ribs being continuous between said opposite ends.

Claim 3. (*Original*) A chassis according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said lateral and medial flanges includes a cut-out.

Claim 4. (*Original*) A chassis according to claim 1, wherein said stiffening rib of at least one of said lateral and medial flanges projects inwardly.

Claim 5. (*Original*) A chassis according to claim 1, wherein said stiffening rib of at least one of said lateral and medial flanges projects outwardly.

Claim 6. (*Previously Presented*) A chassis for an in-line skate, said chassis comprising:

- at least one substantially horizontal foot-bearing portion;
- one longitudinally extending lateral flange extending downwardly from said foot-bearing portion, and one longitudinally extending medial flange extending downwardly from said foot-bearing portion;
- each of said lateral flange and said medial flange having a top portion and a bottom portion, wherein:
  - both said top portions of said lateral flange and said medial flange being transversely spaced apart and both said bottom portions of said lateral flange and said medial flange being adapted to have attached therebetween at least one wheel;
  - each of said lateral flange and said medial flange having a non-circular boss, said boss having been made by pressing, said boss extending longitudinally other than in a straight line.

Claim 7. (*Currently Amended*) An in-line skate comprising:

- at least one substantially horizontal foot-bearing portion;
- one longitudinally extending lateral flange extending downwardly from said foot-bearing portion, said lateral flange comprising a metal, said metal at least partly including aluminum;
- one longitudinally extending medial flange extending downwardly from said foot-bearing portion, said medial flange comprising a metal, said metal at least partly including aluminum;

said lateral and medial flanges comprising distinct parts of a multiple-part chassis of the in-line skate, said distinct parts having been assembled together;

each of said lateral flange and said medial flange having a top portion, and a bottom portion substantially coplanar with said top portion, wherein:

both said top portions of said lateral flange and said medial flange being equally transversely spaced apart and being adapted to have attached therebetween at least one wheel;

each of said lateral flange and said medial flange further having an intermediate portion having been made by pressing, substantially non-coplanar with said bottom portions of said lateral flange and said medial flange.

Claim 8. (*Previously Presented*) An in-line skate according to claim 7, wherein each of said lateral and medial flanges extends continuously between said top portion and said bottom portion via said intermediate portion.

Claim 9. (*Currently Amended*) An in-line skate comprising:

at least one longitudinally extending foot-bearing portion;

one longitudinally extending lateral flange extending downwardly from said foot-bearing portion and having a lateral top portion, and a lateral bottom portion adapted to have attached thereto at least one wheel;

one longitudinally extending medial flange extending downwardly from said foot-bearing portion and having a medial top portion, and a medial bottom portion adapted to have attached thereto at least one wheel;

said lateral and medial flanges comprising distinct parts of a multiple-part chassis of the in-line skate, said distinct parts having been assembled together;

said lateral top portion being spaced apart by a first distance from said medial top portion;

said lateral bottom portion being spaced apart by said first distance from said medial bottom portion;

said lateral flange further having a lateral intermediate portion having been made by pressing, said lateral intermediate portion being substantially non-coplanar with said lateral bottom portion;

said medial flange further having a medial intermediate portion having been made by pressing, said medial intermediate portion being substantially non-coplanar with said medial bottom portion;

said lateral intermediate portion being spaced apart by a second distance from said medial intermediate portion, said second distance being different from said first distance.

Claim 10. (*Original*) An in-line skate according to claim 9, wherein said lateral flange extends continuously from said lateral top portion to said lateral bottom portion via said lateral intermediate portion, and said medial flange extends continuously between said medial top portion and said medial bottom portion via said medial intermediate portion.

Claim 11. (*Original*) An in-line skate according to claim 9, wherein said lateral intermediate portion has a longitudinally curved contour.

Claim 12. (*Currently Amended*) An in-line skate comprising:

at least one longitudinally extending foot-bearing portion;

one longitudinally extending lateral flange extending downwardly from said foot-bearing portion and having a lateral top portion, a lateral bottom portion adapted to have attached thereto at least one wheel and a lateral intermediate portion;

one longitudinally extending medial flange extending downwardly from said foot-bearing portion and having a medial top portion, a medial bottom portion adapted to have attached thereto at least one wheel and a medial intermediate portion;

said lateral and medial flanges comprising distinct parts of a multiple-part chassis of the in-line skate, said distinct parts having been assembled together;

said lateral top portion being spaced apart by a first distance from said medial top portion;

said lateral bottom portion being spaced apart by said first distance from said medial bottom portion;

at least one of said lateral intermediate portion and said medial intermediate portion having been made by pressing and being substantially non-coplanar with said lateral bottom portion;

said lateral intermediate portion being spaced apart by a second distance from said medial intermediate portion, said second distance being different from said first distance.

Claim 13. (*Previously Presented*) A chassis according to claim 1, wherein said top portion of each of said lateral and medial flanges is adjacent to said foot-bearing portion.

Claim 14. (*Previously Presented*) A chassis according to claim 1, wherein said stiffening rib of said lateral flange has an end extending downwardly toward an end of said lateral flange, and said stiffening rib of said medial flange has an end extending downwardly toward an end of said medial flange.

Claim 15. (*Previously Presented*) A chassis for an in-line skate, said chassis comprising:

- at least one substantially horizontal foot-bearing portion;
- one longitudinally extending lateral flange extending downwardly from said foot-bearing portion, and one longitudinally extending medial flange extending downwardly from said foot-bearing portion;
- each of said lateral flange and said medial flange having a top portion and a bottom portion, wherein:
  - both said top portions of said lateral flange and said medial flange being transversely spaced apart and both said bottom portions of said lateral flange and said medial flange being adapted to have attached therebetween at least one wheel;
  - each of said lateral flange and said medial flange further having a stiffening rib, said stiffening rib having been made by pressing, extending longitudinally other than in a straight line;
  - said stiffening rib of said lateral flange and said stiffening rib of said medial flange have longitudinally extending curved shapes, said curved shapes having a downwardly facing concavity.

Claim 16. (*Previously Presented*) A chassis for an in-line skate, said chassis comprising:

- at least one substantially horizontal foot-bearing portion;
- one longitudinally extending lateral flange extending downwardly from said foot-bearing portion, and one longitudinally extending medial flange extending downwardly from said foot-bearing portion;
- each of said lateral flange and said medial flange having a top portion and a bottom portion, wherein:
  - both said top portions of said lateral flange and said medial flange being transversely spaced apart and both said bottom portions of said lateral flange and said medial flange being adapted to have attached therebetween at least one wheel;
  - each of said lateral flange and said medial flange further having a stiffening rib, said stiffening rib having been made by pressing, extending longitudinally other than in a straight line;
  - both said stiffening rib of said lateral flange and said stiffening rib of said medial flange have a longitudinal portion intermediate of opposite ends, said intermediate portion having a higher elevation relative to said opposite ends.

Claim 17. (*Previously Presented*) A chassis according to claim 1, wherein:

- both of said lateral and medial flanges include a front end portion and a rear end portion;
- said front end portion includes top and bottom edges, both of said top and bottom edges of said front end portion extending both forwardly and downwardly; and
- said rear end portion includes top and bottom edges, both of said top and bottom edges of said rear end portion extending both rearwardly and downwardly.

Claim 18. (*Previously Presented*) A chassis according to claim 1, wherein:

both of said lateral and medial flanges comprise means for attaching said at least one wheel to said lateral and medial flanges, said means being arranged longitudinally along said lateral and medial flanges; and

said stiffening rib of each of said lateral and medial flanges are positioned above said means for attaching.

Claim 19. (*Canceled*)

Claim 20. (*Previously Presented*) A chassis according to claim 1, wherein said lateral flange, said medial flange, and said foot-bearing portions, in transverse cross section, comprise a substantially U-shape.

Claim 21. (*Previously Presented*) A chassis according to claim 1, wherein said at least one foot-bearing portion, said lateral flange, and said medial flange are formed as a single piece.

Claim 22. (*Previously Presented*) A chassis according to claim 1, wherein said at least one foot-bearing portion comprises two longitudinally spaced-apart foot-bearing portions, and wherein said two longitudinally spaced-apart foot-bearing portions, said lateral flange, and said medial flange are formed as a single piece.

Claim 23. (*Previously Presented*) A chassis according to claim 6, wherein said top portion of each of said lateral and medial flanges is adjacent to said foot-bearing portion.

Claim 24. (*Previously Presented*) A chassis according to claim 6, wherein each of said lateral and medial flanges have a plurality of holes for receiving axles of wheels adapted to be positioned between said lateral and medial flanges, and wherein said bosses do not surround said holes.

Claim 25. (*Previously Presented*) A chassis according to claim 24, further comprising a plurality of in-line wheels mounted between said lateral and medial flanges.

Claim 26. (*Previously Presented*) A chassis according to claim 6, wherein each of said lateral and medial flanges have a plurality of holes for receiving axles of wheels adapted to be positioned between said lateral and medial flanges, and wherein said bosses are spaced from said holes.

Claim 27. (*Previously Presented*) A chassis according to claim 26, further comprising a plurality of in-line wheels mounted between said lateral and medial flanges.

Claim 28. (*Previously Presented*) An in-line skate according to claim 7, wherein said top portion of each of said lateral and medial flanges is adjacent to said foot-bearing portion.

Claim 29. (*Previously Presented*) An in-line skate according to claim 9, wherein said top portion of each of said lateral and medial flanges is adjacent to said foot-bearing portion.

Claim 30. (*Previously Presented*) An in-line skate according to claim 12, wherein said top portion of each of said lateral and medial flanges is adjacent to said foot-bearing portion.

Claim 31. (*New*) An in-line skate according to claim 7, wherein said lateral and medial flanges are assembled together by means of screws or rivets or welds.

Claim 32. (*New*) An in-line skate according to claim 9, wherein said lateral and medial flanges are assembled together by means of screws or rivets or welds.

Claim 33. (*New*) An in-line skate according to claim 12, wherein said lateral and medial flanges are assembled together by means of screws or rivets or welds.

Claim 34. (*New*) An in-line skate according to claim 31, wherein each of said lateral and medial flanges has a transverse generally L-shape including a small arm, and wherein said screws or rivets or welds assemble together said small arm of each of said lateral and medial flanges.

Claim 35. (*New*) An in-line skate according to claim 32, wherein each of said lateral and medial flanges has a transverse generally L-shape including a small arm, and wherein said screws or rivets or welds assemble together said small arm of each of said lateral and medial flanges.

Claim 36. (*New*) An in-line skate according to claim 33, wherein each of said lateral and medial flanges has a transverse generally L-shape including a small arm, and wherein said screws or rivets or welds assemble together said small arm of each of said lateral and medial flanges.

Claim 37. (*New*) An in-line skate according to claim 9, wherein each of said lateral and medial intermediate portions has at least an outwardly raised segment extending lengthwise and having a variance in height lengthwise.

Claim 38. (*New*) A chassis for an in-line skate, said chassis comprising:

at least one substantially horizontal foot-bearing portion;

one longitudinally extending lateral flange extending downwardly from said foot-bearing portion, and one longitudinally extending medial flange extending downwardly from said foot-bearing portion;

each of said lateral flange and said medial flange having a top portion and a bottom portion, wherein:

both said top portions of said lateral flange and said medial flange being transversely spaced apart and both said bottom portions of said lateral flange and said medial flange being adapted to have attached therebetween at least one wheel;

each of said lateral flange and said medial flange further having a stiffening rib, said stiffening rib having been made by pressing, extending longitudinally other than in a single straight line.